

6 EMILE ZOLA, NOVELIST AND
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(1866), was appointed a judge of the Appeal Court of Brescia. He died comparatively few years ago. Contemporary with him there were other Venetian and Brescian Zolas, cousins, presumably, of various degrees. In family letters of the first half of the last century, one reads of a Lorenzo, a Qiusappa, a Marius, and a Dorina Zola, but all these have passed away; and at the present time (1903) the only representative of the family in Italy -would seem to be the Signora Emma Fratta, *n6e* Zola, a widow lady with four children.

But, besides Marco Zola, Benedetta Kiariaki, the Corfiote, had a son called Francesco in his earlier years, and Frangois after lie took up his residence in France. As a matter of fact he bore four Christian names, Francesco Antonio Giuseppe Maria — which may be taken as some indication of the family's gentle status. In the present narrative, in which it is necessary to speak of him at some little length, for he became the father of Emile Zola, it may be best to call him Francois. He was born at Venice on August 8, 1795, and entered the Royal Military School of Pavia in October, 1810. A corporal-cadet in March, 1811, a serjeant two months later, he obtained his first commission, as a sub-lieutenant in the Fourth Light Infantry, in April, 1812.

In July of the same year he was transferred to the Royal Italian Artillery, with the rank of lieutenant. He was then only seventeen. Until the collapse of the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy in 1814 he served under the viceroy Prince Eug&ne Beauharnais; and Ms regiment being afterwards incorporated in the Austro-Italian forces, he remained with, it till 1820.¹

¹ "La V&rit&e March&e," T>y fimile Zola, Paris, 1901, p. 259. (Documents in the Dossier Ifrangois Zola at the Preach Wax Office.)